

Walsh, Heather

From: Ann Marie [intern@abca.org]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2007 9:50 AM
To: Walsh, Heather
Subject: To the Members of the Children and Youth Committee

September 20, 2007

Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Committee on Children & Youth
Chairman Louise Williams Bishop
Chairman Carole A. Rubley
Room 326 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202192
Harrisburg, PA 17120

hwalsh@pahouse.net

Dear Chairman Bishop and Chairman Rubley:

The American Baseball Coaches Association was founded in 1945 by a handful of collegiate coaches, and today has nearly 6,200 members around the world. During our 62 years, we have broadened to include seven division- NCAA Division I, II, and III, NAIA, Junior College, High School and Youth.

The Association is involved in numerous programs that promote the integrity of the profession and the development of the game of baseball, including issues of safety.

I have attached testimony on behalf of the ABCA and our members from Pennsylvania regarding HB 1482.

Sincerely,

Dave Keilitz
Executive Director

Members of the Children and Youth Committee:

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Several years ago, the ABCA was concerned with the direction of amateur baseball. We felt that there

9/21/2007

was too much offense and the integrity of the game was in question. It was our view that much of this offensive change was due to high performing aluminum/non-wood baseball bats. We requested that the NCAA study this issue and bring the non-wood bats more into line with the performance level of the wood bat.

The NCAA did in fact respond to our request. A special Blue Ribbon Panel was appointed, members of the ABCA, including myself, were a part of this effort. This panel met several times and for several months analyzed and studied every aspect of the baseball bat. Several recommendations were made by the panel to the NCAA and all were adopted. The recommendations included a reduced weight to length differential, a reduction in the size of the bat barrel, a reduction in the ball exit speed of the bat, and a MOI element (moment of inertia) to the testing. These bats are now identified as BESR/3-Certified bats and are used in the NCAA, high school and other competitive leagues. With these changes, today's non-wood bats with the BESR certification are similar in performance to wood bats.

Since these changes have been adopted there has been a significant reduction in runs scored, home runs, batting averages and ERA's. We are satisfied with all aspects of the today's non-wood bats and believe we now have what we hoped for in the game.